

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Dept.
Sonnier Family

Date 30 Mar 1978
Name of compiler Pandora Key
Address P O Box 998
City Concord State Va. 24538

Person No. 1 on this chart is identical to person
No. _____ on chart No. _____

b Date of birth
pb Place of birth
m Date of marriage
d Date of death
pd Place of death

2 John Ferdinand Sonnier
b 18 Mar (Father of No. 1) 1889
pb Jennings, La.
m 3 Jun 1936
pd Jennings, La.

1 Fula Mae Sonnier
b 5 Dec 1919
pb Jennings, La.
m 31 Oct 1936
d
pd

3 Rosa Vincent
b 30 Aug (Mother of No. 1) 1894
pb Crockett Bayou, La.
d 16 Jul 1978
pd Port Arthur, Tex.

#1 m. Norman Cummings Rivers
b. 8 Oct 1910
LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND
Refer to name and number (parents
of
compiler)

4 Valentin Sonnier
b 24 Nov (Father of No. 2) 1848
pb Opelousas, La.
m 13 Jan 1918
pd Jennings, La.

5 Rosalie Gary
b 3 Sept (Mother of No. 2) 1848
pb Grand Coteau, La.
d 31 Jul 1923
pd Jennings, La.

6 Adam Vincent
b 22 Jun (Father of No. 3) 1871
pb New Iberia (Erath), La.
m ca. 1950
pd Jennings, La.

7 Euphemie Elidia Richard
b 13 Mar (Mother of No. 3) 1880
pb Abbyville, La
d 1931
pd Nederland, Texas

ANCESTOR CHART NO. S-0

8 Gideon (Gede) Sonnier
b 3 Aug 1820 (Father of No. 4)
pb St. Martinville, La.
m 14 Jun 1839 Opel., La.
d
pd

9 Celestine Berwick
b 1825 (Mother of No. 4)
pb
d
pd

10 Dom Louis Gario
bpt. 12 Feb (Father of No. 5) 1815
pb St. Martinville, La.
m 1 Apr 1845
d
pd

11 Eloise (Louise) Landry
b 8 Dec (Mother of No. 5) 1829
pb
d
pd

12 Valsain Vincent
b 15 Nov (Father of No. 6) 1829
pb Lafayette, La.
m 29 Nov 1847 New Iberia
d
pd

13 Josephine Landry
b Oct 1834 (Mother of No. 6)
pb Lafayette, La.
d
pd

14 Martin Richard (C W Vet)
(Father of No. 7)

b
pb
m 1 Jun 1861 Abbyville
d
pd

15 Marie Aureline Fredrick
(Mother of No. 7)
b
pb
d
pd

16 Placide Sonnier
(Father of No. 8) Continued on chart 1

17 Marie Anastasie Dugas
(Mother of No. 8) Continued on chart 2

18 William Berwick
(Father of No. 9) Continued on chart 3

19 Celeste Lejeune
(Mother of No. 9) Continued on chart 4

20 Jean Garrido
(Father of No. 10) Continued on chart 5

21 Agnes Marguerite Ravolette
(Mother of No. 10) Continued on chart 6

22 Hubert Eufroy Landry
(Father of No. 11) Continued on chart 7

23 Eloise Modiste LeBlanc
(Mother of No. 11) Continued on chart 8

24 Joseph Vincent
(Father of No. 12) Continued on chart 9

25 Marie Louise "Lise" Landry
(Mother of No. 12) Continued on chart 10

26 Jean Pierre Landry
(Father of No. 13) Continued on chart 11

27 Adelaide Broussard
(Mother of No. 13) Continued on chart 12

28 _____
(Father of No. 14) Continued on chart 13

29 _____
(Mother of No. 14) Continued on chart 14

30 _____
(Father of No. 15) Continued on chart 15

31 _____
(Mother of No. 15) Continued on chart 16

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Date 30 Mar 1978
Name of compiler Pandora Key
Address P O Box 998
City Concord State Va. 24538

Person No. 1 on this chart is identical to person
No. 16 on chart No. S-0

b Date of birth
pb Place of birth
m Date of marriage
d Date of death
pd Place of death

Joseph Sonnier

b 1755 (Father of No. 1)
pb 10Jan1779 St.Martinville
m
d
pd

Placide Sonnier

b
pb 23Feb1813 St.Martinville
m 18Apr1835
d
pd St.Martinville,La.

Marie Thibodeaux

b 1763 (Mother of No. 1)
pb
d 5Jan1816
pd St.Martinville

#1m.Marie Anastasie
Dugas

Refer to name and number

ANCESTOR CHART NO. S-1

Etienne Sonnier

b 1705 (Father of No. 2)
pb Grand Pre'
m 4Jul1740 Beaubassin
d
pd Petitcoudiac

Jeanne D'Aroy (Darois)

b 1720 (Mother of No. 3)
pb
d
pd

Oliver Thibodeaux

b 1743 (Father of No. 3)
pb
m 1763
d
pd

Madeleine Broussard

b
pb
d
pd

Louis Sonnier

b 1663 (Father of No. 4)
pb France
m 1684 Grand Pre'
d
pd

dit-Pelletier

Louise Bastinaux

(Mother of No. 4)
b
pb
d
pd

Jerome Darois

b 1670 (Father of No. 5)
pb Paris,France
m 1695 Grand Pre
d
pd

Marie Gareau (Garault)

b 1676 (Mother of No. 5)
pb Port Royal,Acadia
m
d
pd

Paul Thibodeaux

b 1708 (Father of No. 6)
pb Port Royal
m 1788 Chipoudy,Acadia
d
pd

Marguerite Trahan

b 1702 (Mother of No. 6)
pb Pisiquet,Acadia
m
d
pd

(Father of No. 7)

b
pb
m
d
pd

(Mother of No. 7)

b
pb
d
pd

(Father of No. 8) Continued on chart 1-A

(Mother of No. 8) Continued on chart 1-B

(Father of No. 9) Continued on chart 1-C

(Mother of No. 9) Continued on chart 1-D

(Father of No. 10) Continued on chart 1-E

(Mother of No. 10) Continued on chart 1-F

Dominique Garault
(Father of No. 11) Continued on chart 1-G

Marie Gaudet(1)Hebert
(Mother of No. 11) Continued on chart 1-H

Pierre The Younger Thibodeau
(Father of No. 12) Continued on chart 1-J

Anne Marie Aucoin
(Mother of No. 12) Continued on chart 1-K

Alexandre Trahan
(Father of No. 13) Continued on chart 1-L

Marie Pellerin
(Mother of No. 13) Continued on chart 1-M

(Father of No. 14) Continued on chart 1-N

(Mother of No. 14) Continued on chart 1-P

(Father of No. 15) Continued on chart 1-Q

(Mother of No. 15) Continued on chart 1-R

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FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Wife		Husband	
Louise Bastinaux dit-Pelletier		Name	Louis Saulnier, Matelot
		Born	1663 France
Grand Pre', Acadia	1684	Married	1684 Grand Pre', Acadia
		Died	
		Burial	
		Father	
		Mother	
	husband	Other (if any)	wife
Notes Matelot after Saulnier meant sailor. Louis and Louise settled in Grand Pre', and raised their family there. The * by number 12 below denotes our direct line of descent.			

Date married & spouse

#	Sex	Children in order of birth	Born Day Month Year	Where born	Died Day Month Year	Where died
1	M	Jacques Saulnier	1685	Grand Pre'		
		Rieder p. 49, 50 Anne Hebert				
2	F	Genevieve Saulnier	1687	Grand Pre'		
3	F	Marguerite Saulnier	1689	Grand Pre'		
4	M	Paul Saulnier	1691	Grand Pre'		
5	M	Marcel Saulnier	ca. 1692	Grand Pre'		
		Elizabeth LeBlanc				
6	F	Marie-Anne Saulnier	ca. 1693	Grand Pre'		
7	F	Louise Saulnier	1694	Grand Pre'		
8	M	Rene' Saulnier	ca. 1695	Grand Pre'		
9	M	Pierre Saulnier	ca. 1696	Grand Pre'		
		1697 MARTINE CAMERON 1735 MADELINE NAIG-LEHARD				
10	F	Marie Saulnier	ca. 1698	Grand Pre'		
11	F	Marguerite	ca. 1699	Grand Pre'		
* 12	M	Etienne Saulnier	1705	Grand Pre'		
		4 Jul 1740 Anne Darois				
	M	Jean Saulnier	1707	Grand Pre'		

(all above info from "Histoire et Genealogie Des Acadiens" V.3, p.1285.
Form 2 by Bona Arsenault.

chart prepared by Pandora Key

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

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FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Wife		Husband				
Marie Thibodeaux		Name	Joseph Sonnier			
Acadia	1763	Born	1755 ^{pp} <i>BAL 16 NOV 1756 Petitcoudine ch. (AGE) p9.</i>			
SM ch.v.1,p.67	10Jan1779	Married	10Jan1779 SM ch.v.1,p.67			
SM ch.v.4,#961 <i>Le Rutter #213</i>	27,1815 <i>Jan</i>	Died	9 Oct 1820 <i>Succession 23</i>			
succession SM ct.Hse.	5Jan1816	Burial	10 Oct 1820 <i>St. Charles 24 Succession 23</i>			
Oliver Thibodeaux		Father	Etienne Sonnier			
Madeleine Broussard		Mother	Anne Darois			
	husband	Other (if any)	wife			
Notes Joseph Sonnier is acknowledged in the succession record of widow Oliver Thibodeau, 22 Aug 1808, St.Martinville court house record #28.						
<i>Joseph is listed as 130' in Militia at about what is now Donaldsonville</i>						
<i>Jan 13, 1779 as an American age 23. Also listed by DAR at Attakapas Dist. La.</i>						
Date married & spouse <i>Joseph above had about 13 children AGE 10 p93</i>						
#	J	Children in order of birth	Born Day Month Year	Where born	Died Day Month Year	Where died
1	M	Pierre Sonnier	ca. 1780	(died age 70)	21Nov1850	Laf.ch.v.4,p.24
2	F	Adelaide Dugas				
3	F	Marie Sonnier	bpt 19Mar1780	Opelchv1,p21	13Oct1828	Laf.ct.hse#145
		(1) Jean Constantin				
		(2) Louis Chiasson				
3	F	girl (twin?)	1Feb1801		8Feb1801	SM ch.v.4,#232
4	M	Joseph dit-Padillant	bpt 7mo 5Aug1781	Opel ch.v.1,p24	20Sep1824	Laf ch.v2,p78
		Marguerite Arceneaux				
5	F	Marie Magdalene	6Mar1782	Opel.ch.v1p27	5Feb1832	LafCh.v3,p10
		Jean Amand Dugas				
6	M	Jean Baptist(of Opel.)	26Mar1785	SMCh.v3#65	4Nov1827	LafCh.v2,p50
		Marie Clemence Breaux				
7	F	Celeste Sonnier	9Jan1788	Opel.Ch.v1p83	2Feb1827	Laf.Ch.v2#111
		Jacques Guilbert			24Jul1832	Laf.ct.hse. succ.#230
8	M	Placide Sonnier	ca 1789	prob.Opel.	18Apr1835	Laf.ch.v3p73
		Anastasie Dugas	18Oct1789	SM.ch.v4#428	10Sep1838	Opel.ct.hse. succ.#883
9	M	Alexandre Sonnier	bpt. 25Jul 1790	Opel.ch.v1p99	6Jan1809	SM.v4#553
		died age 18				
10	M	Cyrille Sonnier	bpt. 10May 1795			
		(1) Susette Tamespart	Oct1794	SM.ch.v4#658		
		(1) Susanne Pard	1806			
11?		Felonise	1797		1Mar1799	SM.ch.v4#176
		died age 2 years				
Source Southwest Louisiana Records by Rev. Donald Hebert Pandora Key						

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Date married & spouse

By _____

Form 2 Cattle brand compliments of
our "cousin" from Erath-Cleve Thibodeaux

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Source	Southwest Louisiana Records by Rev Hebert	By	Pandora Key
	Death certificate of Rosalie Gary		

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Source:	Rev. Donald Hebert Southwest Records	By	
	Succession records of Valentin & Rosalie		Pandora Key
Form:	Title and deeds to land owned by same.		
	Lucas Sonnier and Eula Mae Rivers		

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I AM ALL THIS AND MORE

I wish I could tell you in person of the stories I have learned of our Papa's and Mama's. There were times when I laughed till tears filled my eyes. There were times when I cried and felt such a sadness in my heart that I couldn't research for days at a time. Most of the time I felt the emotion of pride, so if my little stories sound boastful occasionally.....it's because I'm proud I'm descended from Acadians.

To date, I have found about 500 grandfathers and grandmothers. Each generation doubles the amount of grandparents we have and in most cases I have our direct line back ten generations. My files have grown to such proportion that I have decided to send you one line at a time.... starting with SONNIER, SAULNIER (found with both spellings).

Most of my findings are secondary documentation and I have provided a reference for anyone who wishes to obtain a copy of the original document. Only in the case of John Ferdinand Sonnier, Rosalie Gary, and Valentin Sonnier have I been able to afford primary documentation.

I will try to tell a little something about each one but in some cases only names, dates and places could be found, as with our SONNIER line.

One word of caution on my findings. Even with very careful research, mistakes can be made.....even in church records and court records.

"Gede" Sonnier was by far the most difficult line to verify.

Special thanks to Nonc Lucas for his recollection of our British and Irish ancestors. With the help of Jess Bergeron of Houma, Louisiana,that clue led us to the right place where we found the parents of Valentin SONNIER.

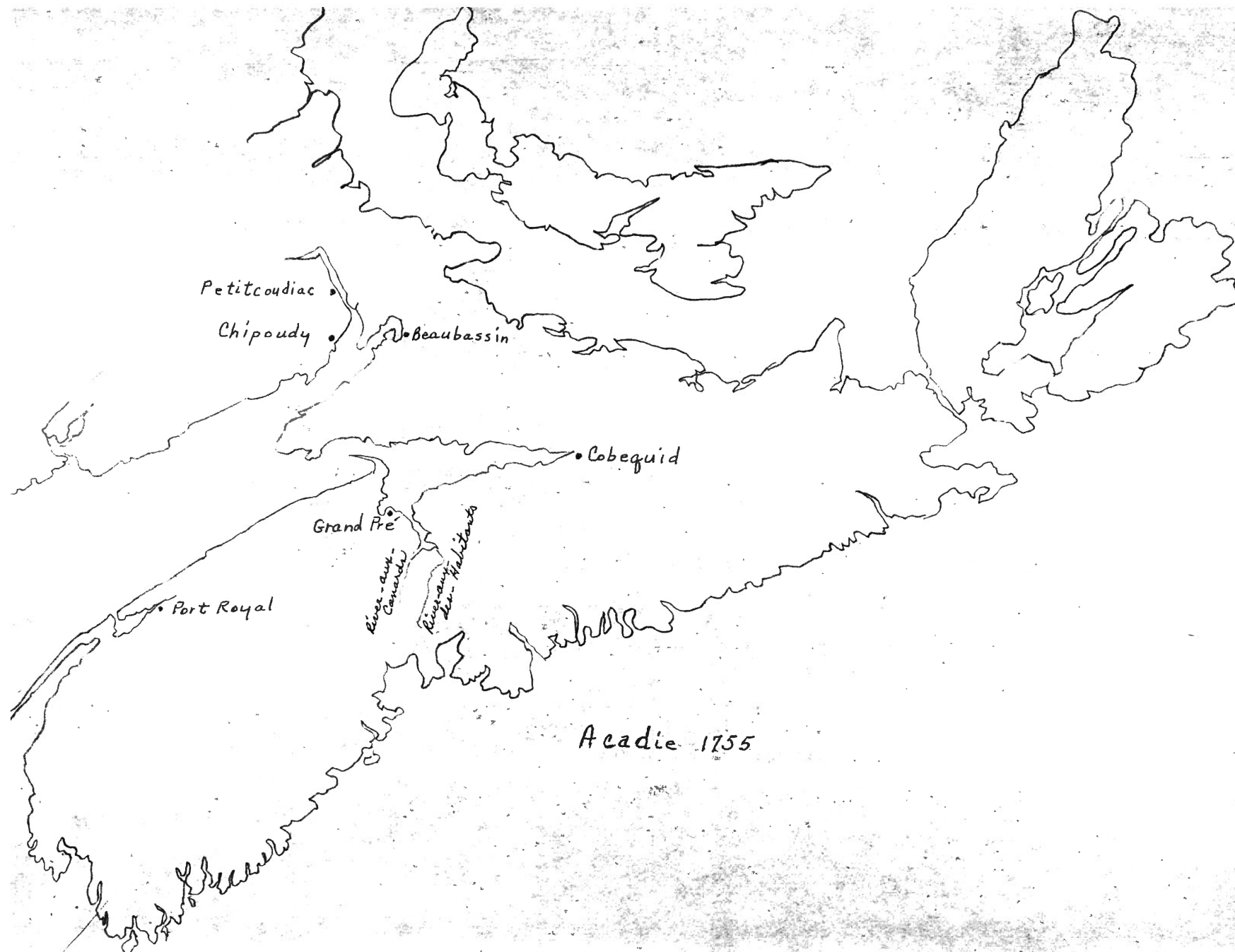
Thank you Mother, for all this and more.

Love,

Bette Tamara Key

Pandora

8-28-77



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I AM ALL THIS AND MORE
SONNIER

Most of our Acadian ancestors had already left their homeland in France and settled in Acadie when Louis Sonnier was born in France, in 1663. His name is recorded as Louis Saulnier, Matelot, France. He was a sailor.

When Louis was 21 years old he met and married Louise Bastinaux dit-Pelletier, at Grand Pre', Acadia, where their 13 children were born.

The 12th child of Louis and Louise was Etienne, born in 1705. He was married twice. 1st to Jeanne Comeau, in 1728, and 2nd to Anne Darois, on 4 July 1740 at Beaubassin, across the Bay of Mines from Grand Pre'.

Etienne and Anne had at least two children, one of whom was Joseph, born in 1755, the year of the Grand Dispersion.

The Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, between France and England, placed the Bay of Fundy Colony, which included Grand Pre' and Port Royal, under British rule. The Acadians were told they could either swear allegiance to the Queen of England or leave within one year.

The Acadians refused to take the oath but were held there by the British administrators who were afraid they would lose the population of the colony and therefore their jobs and income.

France hoped to reclaim Acadia and wanted the French people to stay where they were. No help there.

Meanwhile, hoping to attract Scottish colonies to the area, Esmond Vetch, (a Scottish merchant) renamed Acadia and called it Nova Scotia. (New Scotland)

By 1750 about 800 colonists had escaped and settled on Isle St. Jean, now Prince Edward Island.

In August 1755 the British decided the Acadians' stubborn resistance to swear allegiance to England would continue and started deporting them to English Colonies to the South.

Though England had an agreement with the colonists in America the Acadians met opposition everywhere they tried to settle. Some women and children were sold into slavery. Families were separated. Many were held in prisons till they could be settled years later. Some returned to France or Quebec, but many died.

After twenty years of wandering and searching for a place to settle, the Spanish offered their new land west of the Mississippi River, on

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the Gulf of Mexico, as a possible colony for the victims of the Grand Dispersion.

The Seven Acadian Expeditions to Louisiana began in 1785.

Etienne lived and died during this time and I have not found him in lists of prisoners or tax records. His move to Beaubassin was probably an effort to escape. Etienne moved farther away and settled Petitcoudiac, where he died, and his son Joseph, was born.

How Joseph got to Louisiana is unknown to me. Perhaps in my research in years to come, I will find our Etienne and Joseph fishing quietly on a river bank waiting for the dust to settle.

Joseph wasted no time settling in Louisiana. His marriage to, Marie Thibodeaux, on 10 March 1779, is recorded in Volume 1, page 67, at St. Martinville Church.

Marital infidelity was unheard of and hard work, folk songs and dancing was the way of life. Young men were not encouraged to marry a girl unless she could weave a piece of cloth and the young man make a pair of wheels. These things were necessary for the young couple to know and they didn't need much else. Every time a young couple married, the village got together and built their house and furniture and gave them chickens and cattle. This tradition can be remembered by the older members of our family.

Joseph and Marie had eleven children. Their births and baptisms were recorded in either St. Martinville or Opelousas Churches.

Their eighth child was named Placide. He was born about 1789. He was a farmer and raised cattle. His cattle brand M was registered 11 Jan 1806, at St. Martinville.

Placide Sonnier married Marie Anastasie Dugas on 23 Feb 1813, at St. Martinville Parish Church. Placide died a young man of 46.

Of his seven children, the fourth was Gedeon, (Gedion). He was known as "Gede" by his friends, one of whom must have been the parish priest because he recorded one of his childrens marriages as "daughter of Gede Sonnier". His name was also recorded as Leon.

Gede is the first Sonnier to marry outside the Acadian Colony of French, when he married Celestine Berwick on 14 Jun 1839, who's father was William Berwick, son of Thomas Berwick of Lake Pontrachain. Thomas was the son of Thomas of England and Helen Birgitte Wales of Ireland. William's mother was Rachel Comstock of Boston, Massachusetts daughter

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of William Comstock and Raquel Allridge of New England.

In all probability it was from Celestine Berwick that Gede's son Valentin inherited his fair hair and blue eyes.

Gede and Celestine moved to Grand Coteau, near what used to be called Bosco, where their seven children were born. Their fifth child was Valentin, not to be confused with his sister Valentine who married Simon Leger.

For some reason Gede's 1st, 2nd and 5th children were baptized in Opelousas and the rest at Grand Coteau. Most were married at Church Point where the "friendly Priest" wrote "Gede". Probably a new church.

I have been unable to locate a marriage record for Valentin and Rosalie Gary, but was able to verify parentage through the baptism records of their children Ovilien (father of Nonc Lucas) at Church Point Church, and Odelia at Rayne Church.

Valentin Sonnier took for his wife, Rosalie Gary of Grand Coteau, daughter of Dom Louis Gario (of Spanish descent) and Louise Landry.

On 5 Sept 1876, Valentin bought the family farm from David L. Miller. He and Rosalie settled there to raise six children in Jefferson Davis Parish.

Because of my inability to speak to Nonc Lucas from way up here in Virginia, I will wait till I can spend a few days with him before I attempt to characterize such a colorful man as Valentin. Nonc Lucas loved and knew him well and has many interesting stories he recalls easily.

I would like to hear from all family members and of what they remember about our Papa, John Ferdinand Sonnier, who I never met.

My mother, Eula Mae, has fond memories of his love of fishing and hunting quail. How he use to read detective stories by the fireplace and how they laughed when he sprang his foot when he kicked her for back talk, which he could not tolerate. How he was a non drinker and non smoker. He danced the waltz with her at the "Sugar Mill", the dance hall he built, which seems to be her fondest memory of her father.

Tell me what you remember and I will try to put it all together for our children and grandchildren.

Comming up next-----the family history of our Thibodeaux Papa's, Placide Sonniers mothers' line.

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RESEARCH REFERENCE TOOLS

The records of Southwest Louisiana were compiled by Father Hebert of Eunice, Louisiana, and published in several volumes for genealogical research. I use his form of abbreviation.

Prior to the settlement of Louisiana, Bona Arsenault is the authority on Acadia and has published his work in French and recently in English. Most of his work has been translated for me by other "cousins".

Janet Jehn published two volumes of Acadian Descendents and most of our family can be found in her work, which is widely used in Louisiana Acadian research.

It may seem confusing at first but I have put the "proof of ancestry" on the family charts and only the name of the place on the ancestor charts. It is best to be able to prove your claim and handy to compare with cousins you may find in years to come.

On the Family Group Sheets, I have put the record source where you can find the original document which is in most cases, the place or town in which the event occurred. For example:

Opel stands for Opelolusas

ch. stands for Church

v. stands for volume

p. or # stands for page or number

ct.hs. stands for court house which in most cases use a system of marriage books.

ca. stands for circa which means about the time of.

b. stands for born

d. stands for died

m. stands for married

For Gedeon "Gede" Sonnier and Celestine Berwick, their marriage was recorded twice and reads like this. Opel.ch.v.2,p.178 and Opel ct.hs. Q-42.

This reads as "Opelolusas church, volume 2, page 178 and Opelolusas court house, marriage book Q, #42.

If you have any questions, please write me and I will be happy to help.

All underlined names are our grandparents.